



TO THE HONORABLE COMMISSIONER
OF
PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS

In Re:

“A Disposable Wet Wipe For Cleansing a Horse Bit”

Inventor: Susan A. Cook

Application #: 10/719,846

Filing Date: 11/24/2003

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Your Applicant hereby respectfully responds as follows to the Office Action in this matter:

The instant invention is meant to uniquely serve the dual purpose of 1. effectively cleansing a horse bit and 2. inducing a horse to want to then readily take the bit once it would have been so cleansed. Horses are reasonably reluctant to take unclean bits, and; even once such bits would have been appropriately indeed optimally cleansed, they are often still reluctant to do so. The invention provides a ready and highly effective means for inducing horses to take bits that are, cleansed free from crud or debris, and; that's primarily because horses truly love the scent and taste of the peppermint in the peppermint oil with which the instant invention is imbued.

Respectfully submitted, there is nothing in the prior art that has been cited in this matter that admits of that particularly unique combination of features such as characterize the essence of the instant invention for purposes of responding to the need on the part of keepers of horses to most readily induce them to take bits, i.e. by inducing them to eagerly want to take an aromatic and tasty bit that is also well cleansed.

The Gardiner article does not in any way address impregnation of paper material with peppermint oil. It addresses only utilization of peppermint oil as i.e. an analgesic, anesthetic or antipruitic agent. It does not describe the combination of such oil with i.e. the particular type of paper component which is part and parcel of the claims endemic to the instant invention.

The Mahieu device, plainly stated will not, respectfully submitted, ever function to cleanse a horse bit anywhere near sufficiently enough to expect that any horse will readily "take the bit". If the wood pulp concentration in the towel exceeds i.e. 55%, the wipe will leave fibers behind in numbers invariably sufficient enough to accordingly deter a horse from ever wanting to take the bit. Concentrations of wood pulp of less than 45% will result in a tearing of the wipe during the process of cleansing thereby making for very inefficient, if indeed ever any real, cleansing to begin with. Mahieu, in particular discloses only paper to liquid weight proportions, to wit: 20 to 30 percent paper. Mahieu does not appear to, in any way, address the range of weight densities of the paper material only, as do the claims now pending in the instant application, to wit, the weight densities of from 1.00 to 2.20, and specifically 1.50 as referred to in claims 1 and 6 respectively, as currently amended in the pending application. This factor is critically important as respects the utility and uniqueness of the instantly claimed invention, since, if the paper wipe itself has density in excess of 2.20, it will simply soak up all of the oil and then some to the point that there'd be left behind after any such would-be cleansing, essentially no oil based residue on the bit, which said oil-based residue as noted above is what serves as the really ultimate impetus to induce a horse to take a cleansed bit to begin with. On the other hand, if such density is

less than 1.00, the paper simply will not ever soak up the oil sufficiently enough, to the extent that therefore there would still be the absence of enough of an oil-based incentive as would serve to induce a horse to readily take the bit. In this respect, it must be respectfully restated that horses are greatly enamored by the scent and concomitantly, the taste of peppermint oil, and; the objective underlying resort to the invention is, in reality, two-fold, namely, to: 1 – to optimally cleanse a bit and 2 – to render the bit optimally amenable to being readily taken by a horse.

In conclusion, neither McCue nor Mahieu disclose both the wood pulp percentage of 45% to 55% as well as the paper product only density range of from 1.00 to 2.20 where only both features combined together will operate to properly ensure the matter of a ready taking by a horse of an appropriately cleansed horse bit. In respect of same, it is clear that the Gardner article does not disclose the particularized coincidence of a peppermint oil combined with paper characterized by both a wood pulp percentage composition as noted above and an overall paper material density as noted above, all calculated to appropriately cleanse a horse bit to then, perforce of the peppermint flavored residue remnant thereupon, be readily acceptable to a horse as likewise noted above.

In conclusion, respectfully submitted, absent such particularized coincidence, acceptably efficacious horse bit cleansing coupled with a subsequently, ready taking of such a cleansed bit by a horse, for the most part, simply just does not occur.

For the reasons cited above, it is respectfully requested that the Claims 2 through 6 currently pending in the instant application be allowed.

DATED this 2nd day of January, 2008 at Rutland,
Vermont.



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